



DOCKET NO.: 199764US-3

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231



RE: U.S. Application
Serial No: 09/713,247
Filed: NOVEMBER 16, 2000
Group: 1762
Inventor: TAKAYUKI TOSHIMA ET AL.
For: SILYLATION TREATMENT UNIT
AND METHOD

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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SIR:

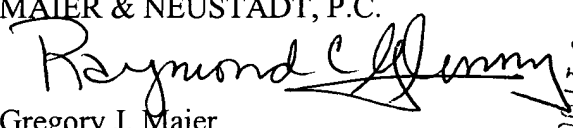
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$ --0-- is attached covering any required fees. In the event that any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 CFR 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

TAKAYUKI TOSHIMA ET AL.

: EXAMINER: BRET P. CHEN

SERIAL NO: 09/713,247

FILED: NOVEMBER 16, 2000

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1762

FOR: Silylation Treatment
Unit and Method

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated August 5, 2002, Applicants elect for prosecution,
with traverse:

Invention I: "Unit" (Apparatus) Claims 1-11

Reasons for Traversal

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims should be examined on the merits. At the
outset, it is recognized that:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made
without **serious** burden, the Examiner **must** examine it on the merits,
even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.
MPEP § 803; emphasis added.

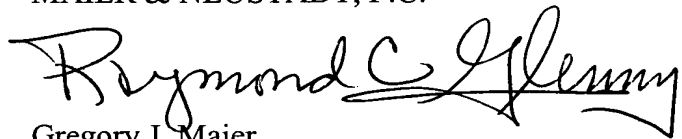
Although the Office Action has identified separate classifications, making a *prima face* case of
a serious burden, it is respectfully submitted that there is no serious burden in searching and
examining the entire application.

Since electronic searching is commonly performed, a search may be made of a large number of, or theoretically all, subclasses without significant additional effort. It is thus very likely that patents and publications directed to one Invention will have descriptions of the other Invention, greatly facilitating the prior art search and the consideration of both Inventions.

Thus, withdrawal of the restriction requirement, and favorable examination on the merits of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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